

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Jeffrey Howell on 14 October 2011.

The application has been amended as follows:

In claim 5, line 3, delete the word "discharged" and substitute therefor --discharge--.

In claim 8, line 3, delete the word "discharged" and substitute therefor --discharge--.

In claim 8, line 3, between the words "lower" and "face", insert the word --end--.

In claim 9, line 3, between the words "lower" and "face", insert the word --end--.

In claim 9, line 3, delete the word "discharged" and substitute therefor --discharge--. In claim 10, line 3, between the words "lower" and "face", insert the word --end--.

In claim 10, line 3, delete the word "discharged" and substitute therefor --discharge--.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-20, 23, and 24 are allowed.

3. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: the limitation of a suction muffler having inlet and outlet pipes which are parallel within a sound deadening space, with the outlet pipe having a right angle bend in the sound deadening space, is not shown in the prior art.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to PHILIP STIMPERT whose telephone number is (571)270-1890. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 7:30AM-4:00PM, EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Devon Kramer can be reached on (571) 272-7118. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Devon C Kramer/

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/P. S./
Examiner, Art Unit 3746
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